A centrally sponsored Export Promotion industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme has been formulated to assist State Governments in establishing infrastructural facilities for export oriented production. So far such Parks have been approved to be set-up in Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Ambarnath (Maharashtra) Baddi (H.P.), Sitapura (Rajasthan), Hoodi (Karnataka) Kakkanad (Kerala), Kundli (Haryana), Surajpur (U.P.) Gommidipoondi (Tamil Nadu), Pashamylaram (AP), Savli (Gujarat), Hajipur (Bihar), Durgapur (West Bengal) and Byrnihat (Meghalaya).

US Report on High Indian Tariffs

6784. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent US Government report has expressed concern over high Indian tariffs;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The 1995 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers released by the Office of United States Trade Representative on 31-3-95 states trat notwithstanding India's reduction of its tariff rates from some as high as 300 per cent in 1991 to a ceiling of 65 per cent in the 1994-95 budget, India's tariffs continues to be among the highest in the world, especially for goods that can oe produced domestically. The Report adds that the maintenance of a variety of additional duties of countervailing duties by India raises the offective tariff rates well above the tariff ceiling for some products.

(c) Broadly speaking, in the Uruguay Round, India hhas bound its tariff on capital goods, intermediates and raw materials at 40 per/25%. In the agricultural sector our tariff bindings range from 100 per cent to 300 per cent.

India,s agricultural as well as industrial schedules on tariffs have been multilaterally verified and accepted by all the contracting parties of GATT|WTO including USA.

Review of Licensing Policy to Sugar Mills

6785. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) which are the areas in the licensing policy for sugar industry that are being reviewed by Government:

(b) whether Government are considering regarding fixing of any target for issue of license to the sugar mills; and

(c) it so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The entire policy of licensing of sugar mills, including the option of delicensing is under examination.

Sugar procured for distribution through PPDS

6786. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar procured during the current season under levy system for distributing the commodity through the Public Distribution System; and

(b) what steps have been taken to ensure the availability of sugar for the PDS from indigenous production and imports contracted by the STC and MMTC despite optimistic domestic production estimates?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) At present, 40 per cent of the production of each sugar factory (effective all India average about 33 per cent on account of additional free-sale allowed under various incentive schemes) is procured as levy sugar. The monthly allocation of levy sugar for the Public Distribution System at the existing level of allocation is 3.35 lakh tonnes